

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A fragmentation-resistant instrument panel for use in a vehicle is provided which includes an outer layer having an inner surface and a core of expanded plastic of a predetermined shape and having an inner surface. The core is secured to the inner surface of the outer layer. The inner layer has an inner surface fixedly secured to the inner surface of the core to thereby at least partially encapsulate the expanded plastic foam between it and the outer layer. The instrument panel is resistant to fragmentation in the event that an impact force is applied to the inner layer. A method of making the instrument panel is also provided.